

Filed for intro on 05/18/2000

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 754

By McDaniel

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Margaret Lawless for her meritorious service to The Jackson Symphony Orchestra and the West Tennessee music community as a whole.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who through their hard work and dedication have distinguished themselves as invaluable assets in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean could possibly be more deserving of this Body's commendation than the singular Margaret Lawless of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Lawless has been associated with The Jackson Symphony Orchestra for nearly 30 years, playing her first concert with the orchestra while still a college student in 1971; and

WHEREAS, she has performed as the orchestra's principal Violist since 1984, bringing outstanding musical entertainment to the people of West Tennessee in scores of classical and pops concerts; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Lawless has served The Jackson Symphony Orchestra in diverse capacities other than as a musician: as President of its Symphony League auxiliary in 1993-94,

as a member of the orchestra's Board of Directors and Executive Committee for many years, and as an unpaid office volunteer for four years; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Lawless founded Jackson's Camerata String Orchestra in 1990 to fulfill a need in West Tennessee for ensemble experience for string musicians, and served as conductor, music director, and mentor for hundreds of participants until 1999, when the Camerata expanded to become the Jackson Symphony Youth Orchestra; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Lawless founded Jackson's Sinfonia Strings in 1998 to afford West Tennessee's young string musicians with the opportunity for a first ensemble experience, and has served as conductor and music director for the Sinfonia Strings since its founding; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Lawless has taught violin and viola to hundreds of West Tennessee students over the past 11 years, developing their talents and instilling in them a respect for the skills of musicians and an appreciation for great music; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Lawless has profoundly touched the lives of so many people in the region, and particularly so many of the youth of West Tennessee, by means of her consummate professionalism, selfless dedication and indefatigable love of music, thereby enriching beyond measure the quality of life for everyone in West Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, public servants of her stature do not often grace us with their presence; we are most grateful to Margaret Lawless for evidencing the greatest commitment to living the examined life with conviction and courage; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Margaret Lawless for her meritorious service to the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, both as a musician and an administrator; salute her countless contributions to the Jackson Camerata String Orchestra, Jackson's Sinfonia Strings and the West Tennessee music community as a whole; and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.